ConFusion

UK Eastercon

2 - 5 April 2021

Hilton Birmingham Metropole

Progress Report 1

confusion2021.uk

enquiries@confusion2021.uk

@ConFusion2021

@confusion2021

Letter from the Chair

Hello and welcome to our first Progress Report! We hope you have all been keeping safe, healthy and happy in these strange times we find ourselves in.

For our part we are continuing to plan for an in-person convention but always with a view to how we might make things work in a virtual world. We are watching and learning :-)

We are excited to welcome James Shields and Fionna O'Sullivan as our membership/registration team and Russell Smith as the head of Programme. We have plans to bring you a great convention with liberal sprinklings of whimsy and fun. Watch this space!

As always, thank you for your support. We could not do it without you.

Vanessa May
Chair
ConFusion

Membership

Eastercon is a volunteer-run con with a membership model. As a member, you are entitled to propose programme items and participants (including yourself!), join the team as a volunteer, and vote in selecting the locations of future Eastercons.

The following rates are valid until 22 November 2020.

Adult Attending	£70
Adult Concession	£40
Child (under 18 on 2 April 2021)	£20
Infant (under 5 on 2 April 2021)	£1
Apocryphal (badge for your stuffed toy/mascot/guide animal)	£1

For more information on rates, concessions and increases, please visit the ConFusion 2021 website.

ConFusion Guests of Honour

Dan Abnett

Dan Abnett is a multiple New York Times bestselling author and an award-winning comic book writer. He has written over fifty novels, including the acclaimed Gaunt's Ghosts series, the Inquisitor Eisenhorn Cycle, and volumes of the million-selling Horus Heresy series, which he began with *Horus Rising*, and the latest Siege of Terra novel, the hugely acclaimed *Saturnine*. His many other novels include *The Silent Stars Go By* (Doctor Who), *Rocket Raccoon and Groot: Steal the Galaxy*, *Triumff*, and *Embedded*. In comics, his 2008 run on T*he Guardians of the Galaxy* for Marvel formed the inspiration for the blockbuster movies. For Marvel, over the years, he has also written long and celebrated runs on *Force Works, The Punisher, War Machine, Hercules, The New Mutants* and *Nova*. He is also noted for significant work on DC's *Legion of Superheroes, Justice League* and *Aquaman*. Other work for DC includes *Resurrection Man, Mera, The Titans* and, for the Vertigo imprint, *The New Deadwardians*. For other publishers he has written *Vampirella, Dejah Thoris* and *Red Sonja* (all Dynamite), *Hypernaturals* and *Wild's End* (Boom!), *Dark Ages, Alien,* and *Predator* (all Dark Horse) and *Rai, Fallen World,* and *The Eternal Warrior* (Valiant). A regular contributor to the UK's long-running 2000AD, he is the creator of series including *Brink, Grey Area, Feral and Foe, Lawless, Kingdom,* and the classic *Sinister Dexter*. He has also written extensively for the games industry, including *Shadow of Mordor* and *Alien:Isolation*. Dan lives and works in Maidstone, Kent, in the UK.

ConFusion Guests of Honour

Nik Vincent

Nik Vincent-Abnett began working as a freelance editor, but has published work in a number of mediums, including advertising, training manuals, comics and short stories. She has worked as a ghost writer, and regularly collaborates with her partner, Dan Abnett, writing novels, and working on projects for the games industry. Nik's first solo, independent novel, *Savant*, was published by Solaris in 2016. She lives and works in Maidstone, Kent, where she cooks and decorates, and throws pots.

Dave Lally

Dave Lally is well known across the whole of UK, Irish and European fandom, and he has been active in the organisation and promotion of fannish events since his first UK Eastercon in 1984. He has run video programmes for Worldcons including The Hague 1990 (Confiction), Glasgow 1995 (Intersection) and 2005 (Interaction), for many of the Eastercons between 1991 – 2005, and for many Octocons, as well. He was chair of the European SF Society from 2006 – 2013, and since 2014, he has been the Membership Officer for the British SF Association. He was also a member of the 2016 Eastercon committee (Mancunicon). He sees conventions as fandom's lifeblood, allowing interaction not just between Guests and fans, but between fans themselves. Outside fandom, Dave worked in financial services, but is now retired. Irish by birth, he now lives in London.

Programme

We want the most exciting, innovative, diverse and FUN programme we can have—and we can't do it without your help! Members are invited to propose programme items, and to put themselves forward to appear on programme or organize specific events.
You'll find a programme form on the website, or write to programme@confusion2021.uk .

- **Panels, talks, readings , live podcasts**

Readers, bookbloggers, film buffs, comics lovers and other fans of narrative media will find plenty of discussion—whether it's reviewing and reframing old favourites, sharing recent discoveries, or getting a taste of works to come. Purely fannish, meta, science and academic topics will be on offer, as well as the traditional fireside chats with the Guests of Honour.

- **Signings and other book events**

There will be signings by our Guests of Honour and other authors attending the convention. Publishers and authors interested in signings, hosting launch events or parties, and buying programme ads should get in touch.

- **Workshops**

As well panel discussions, presentations and talks, ConFusion 2021 will host a range of practical workshops. If you have something to teach, let us know! Details and signups will be announced closer to the convention.

- **Performances, musical and other entertainment**

Watch our social media for details of special evening entertainment! More ideas welcome.

- **Art show**

Eastercon is well known for its art show, and we are delighted to say that it will be a key part of ConFusion 2021 as well. If you are interested in exhibiting your work in the Art Show, contact us at artshow@confusion2021.uk .

- **Costuming**

After a year of casual teleconferences, we will enjoy the opportunity for cosplay and other forms of fancy dress, including the traditional Hall Costume contest.

- **Dealers room**

Books, jewellery, fannish accessories of all kinds – you'll find them all and more in the ConFusion 2021 Dealers Room. If you would like to take a table, please contact us at dealers@confusion2021.uk .

- **Fan tables**

Want to find out about upcoming conventions? Visit their fan tables to meet them, ask questions and sign up! If you would like to promote your con at a fan table, contact us at dealers@confusion2021.uk .

- **Games**

There will be dedicated gaming space at ConFusion, with range of games brought by members.

- **Teens and children**

There will be a teen lounge at ConFusion !
If you will need care for younger children, please let us know on the membership form. We will explore options in the coming months. Input and organisation are welcome.

ConFusion Committee

Chair – Vanessa May Vanessa has always insisted the chair did not define her. In this case, she has accepted that it does. Her alter ego, Incognito, is an internationally known person of mystery and a fair few conrunning skills. She has been volunteering at cons since *mumble* and has yet to figure out how to say no. By day Vanessa is a Data Architect for the Royal Mail; by night she is mostly tired. When she has time Vanessa likes to gallivant around the UK and Europe impressing random strangers with her mad stealth abilities.

Art Show – Serena Culfeather Serena discovered fandom later in life and didn't get the message that you can attend a convention without having to work at it. Since 2005 she has served as Press and Guest Liaison as well as helping run art shows and dealers' rooms at Novacons, Eastercons and a couple of Worldcons. Dublin 2019 gave her a taste for mojitos. When not working on conventions, Serena has a full-time job as a compliance manager with her own mini laboratory.

John Wilson John came to conventions late, a sign of his insanity being despite his inexperience he ran ops for a first flight convention and the following week running the convention printshop for the Glasgow WorldCon in 2005. Since then he's covered hotel liaison, press and guest liaison and most frequently and recently, art shows. In addition to multiple Novacons and Eastercons, John has two WorldCons under his belt and has developed an obsession with industrial fencing.

Hotel Liaison – Alice Lawson Alice has been helping run conventions for many years and chaired a few including Novacon, Eastercon and Worldcon. She was amazed and honoured to receive the both the Doc Weir award in 2010 and the Big Heart award in 2019. Working with Serena Culfeather and John Wilson on the Dublin 2019 artshow is one of her favourite memories. When not working on conventions Alice lives a quiet life with husband Steve - or as quiet as it can be living with her fellow conrunner Steve.

ConFusion Committee

Logistics – John Dodd *That Dodd is out there, he runs conventions, that's what he does, that's all he does, he can't feel pity, or remorse, or fear, and he will not stop, ever, until the job is done. Then he'll start again…* John's been running cons for a few decades, and now helps with Eastercon, Worldcon, UK Games Expo, Dragonmeet, Longcon, Airecon, and Wyntercon, he's been at the Birmingham Metropole for more conventions than he wants to remember, but he loves every second of it.

Membership and registration – Fionna O'Sullivan Fionna has been floating around fandom in Ireland, Finland, and the UK for more years than she likes to contemplate. She has been a fan of literary SF since the age of 9, when somebody bought a copy of The Boy's Book Of Science Fiction Stories for her brother; she hopes to one day own All The Books. She published a one-woman fanzine, FRINGE, in the 90s and 00s, was co-area head for Theatre Events in Dublin 2019, and is on the board of the ESFS. She lives in Drogheda, Ireland, with James Shields, their dog Leia, and pieces of LEGO embedded in the soles of her feet.

James Shields James has been involved in fandom and conventions since the early 1990s. He has helped organise many cons in Ireland and abroad, including Octocon, P-Con, Shamrokon (Eurocon), Eastercons and Worldcons. He has also been involved in fanzines, fan clubs and fan funds. He is a former LEGO Ambassador, and enjoys getting LEGO activities onto convention programmes whenever he can. He organised the LEGO display at Dublin 2019. He lives in Drogheda, Ireland with Fionna O'Sullivan, their dog Leia, and a collection of bookshelves that are never quite capacious enough to fit all the LEGO models.

Programme - Russell Smith An author, podcaster and freshly-minted historian who has found himself at the dangerous side of putting together programme as much as being on it. Russell has done a number of volunteer roles for conventions before in recent years which some will have seen him about on, and different ones from different cons too. Ops, Registration, guest liaison and of course programme, there is no section of a convention which Russell can fail to run away from fast enough.

ConFusion Committee

Publications – Diana ben-Aaron After several decades of being a fan of fans, Diana started her con volunteer career at the Dublin 2019 Worldcon, where she was head of press area. During lockdown, Diana attended many cons on social Zooms, caught up on some reading (including, finally, *The Dispossessed*) and terraformed her bathtub to grow potatoes. She has opinions at Twitter: @diana180 and blog Field Notes.

Social Media – Zoe Deterding Zoe is the one normally disguised as a very large Dr Who scarf which she knitted herself. She discovered fandom and conventions in 1983 with her first Eastercon in Brighton in 1984, and volunteered on a small scale with many conventions in her early days of con-going. You'll often find Zoe socializing and discussing the meaning of life with like minded fans. When the internet, smartphones and social media became a thing, it was like these were made for her! She was sucked in big time with Dublin in 2019, being the Social Media Area Deputy Head. Zoe now works with social media for several conventions.

Tech – Keith Smith Keith has been supporting and running Tech at conventions for well over a decade, and has been involved in the discipline for a good deal longer - as the improbably large number of gizmo-filled boxes that fill his storage spaces attest. He was once given the opportunity to name a star. But for reasons he has never been able to satisfactorily explain, he didn't. Something he now regrets. He was the Tech Director for Dublin 2019, which he doesn't regret. Favourite misquote: "Ooh look! A standard. I wonder if it'll be friends with me?"

Treasurer – Mike Howard Hardworking, sober, honest, literate, solvent, these are just some of the words no one would ever use to describe Confusion Treasurer, Mike. Mike was press-ganged into the committee when a chair of ConFusion who-shall-remain-nameless bought him a drink, Mike immediately downed it swallowing the king's shilling contained within. From this two things were learned first that Mike is an idiot, secondly that once you give Mike money you can't get it back out of him, this has generally been regarded as an ideal quality in a treasurer. When Mike isn't writing bios that he at least thinks are funny, he runs a Blood Bowl league, smokes a pipe and sleeps more than he should but less than he would like.

ConFusion Committee

Website - Paul Taylor Paul grew up with television series such as *Doctor Who, Star Trek, U.F.O.* and *Blake's Seven*. And of course he was captivated from the beginning by books. When he had read all of his own, he discovered science fiction by raiding his father's shelves, and poetry by raiding his mother's. Both offered new worlds of surprise and delight, as they still do today. Other passions followed, including opera, music and theatre, today ensuring that Paul is rarely bored, and even more rarely home. It took him rather longer to discover fandom and conventions, but he immediately decided to get involved, and has since worked with many of the recent Eastercons. Dublin 2019 was his third Worldcon committee, but it's unlikely to be his last. Twitter: @pault_cam ; Instagram: pault_cam .

Call for Staff and At-Con Volunteers

We need help with all kinds of tasks, before, during and after the convention. These include planning and organisation; promoting the convention, and practical work at the convention itself. Some tasks can be done by individuals, although many of our volunteers will work as part of a team.

As well as the satisfaction of contributing to a successful event enjoyed by hundreds of fellow fans, volunteering can be a good way to meet people. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or this is your very first convention, your help will be valued by us and by everyone at ConFusion.

When you join ConFusion, you can tell us what you're interested in helping with. If you'd like to help but you're not sure what you would like to do, get in touch with us and we can tell you more. Any experience you've got from running other conventions or events could be useful, as could skills and experience at work, from your studies or other leisure activities.

Expressing interest in volunteering won't commit you to anything at this stage, and you can choose the amount of time you are willing to give and when you are available – including at the con itself.

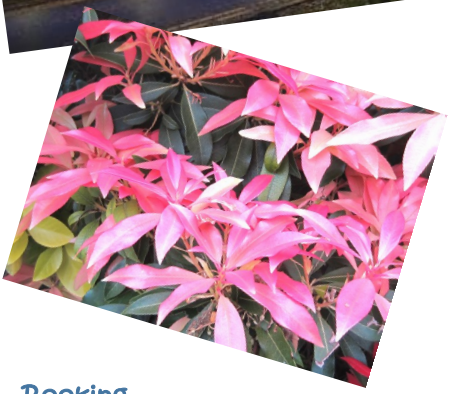
For more information, contact us at volunteers@confusion2021.uk .

Venue and Accommodation

The venue for ConFusion is the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

Regular Eastercon attendees will remember the hotel from Eastercon 2017. There are 33 function rooms and 4,273m² of meeting space, enough for all of the expected programme and activities.

The hotel has excellent transport links, and is connected to the NEC, Birmingham International Airport and railway station. There is ample car parking.



Facilities

Limited free WiFi in public areas. Hilton Honors members also have free WiFi in their rooms – join HH for free when booking .

Spacious park with gardens for walking.

Heated indoor swimming pool and 24-hour fitness centre

Walking distance to Birmingham International Airport, the NEC, LG arena , Resorts World.

Complimentary shuttle service to Birmingham International railway station & Birmingham Airport, available 24 hours.

Booking

See the Accommodation page on our website for information about booking rooms for ConFusion 2021 at the Hilton Metropole, including accessibility.

ConFusion Members

as of 28 July 2020

Member	Name	Type	Country
A0010	Vanessa May (Incognito)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0011	Paul Taylor	Attending	United Kingdom
A0012	Zoe Deterding	Attending	United Kingdom
A0013	Francesca T Barbini - Luna Press	Attending	United Kingdom
A0014	Robert S Malan	Attending	United Kingdom
A0015	Kevin Mortimer (Lord Ashram)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0016	Maniac	Attending	United Kingdom
A0017	Jean Thompson (Rhionnach)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0018	Robin Hill	Attending	United Kingdom
A0019	Trevor Barker	Attending	United Kingdom
A0020	Short Redhead	Attending	Ireland
A0021	James Shields (LostCarPark)	Attending	Ireland
A0022	Alan Woodford	Attending	United Kingdom
A0023	Anne Woodford	Attending	United Kingdom
A0024	Edward Boreham	Attending	United Kingdom
A0026	Steven Lawson (Steven)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0027	Alice Lawson	Attending	United Kingdom
A0028	martyn Dawe (martyn)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0029	Claire Ryder (Claire Ryder)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0030	Dave Cartwright	Attending	United Kingdom
A0031	Sarah Brider (Hunting Osprey)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0032	Serena Culfeather	Attending	United Kingdom
A0033	John R. Wilson	Attending	United Kingdom
A0034	Diana ben-Aaron (Diana)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0035	Arwel Parry	Attending	United Kingdom
A0036	Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf	Attending	Sweden
A0037	Ian Maughan (Square Bear)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0040	Ian Kitley (Ian)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0041	Nicholas Whyte	Attending	Belgium
A0042	Jamie Scott	Attending	United Kingdom

ConFusion Members

as of 28 July 2020

A0043	Nile	Attending	United Kingdom
A0044	Spike	Attending	United Kingdom
A0045	Cristina Macia	Attending	Spain
A0046	Ian Watson	Attending	Spain
A0047	Laura Watson	Attending	Spain
A0048	David Whitmarsh	Attending	United Kingdom
A0049	Jan van't Ent	Attending	Netherlands
A0050	Jesper Stage	Attending	Sweden
A0051	Nick	Attending	United Kingdom
A0052	Dawn	Attending	United Kingdom
A0053	James Odell (James)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0054	Mike Scott	Attending	United Kingdom
A0055	Flick	Attending	United Kingdom
A0056	Steve Rogerson	Attending	United Kingdom
A0057	D.A Lascelles	Attending	United Kingdom
A0058	Dan Smithers	Attending	United Kingdom
A0059	Lucy Smithers	Attending	United Kingdom
A0060	Nathaniel Smithers	Attending	United Kingdom
A0061	Jonathan Smithers	Attending	United Kingdom
A0062	Matthew Smithers	Attending	United Kingdom
A0063	Louiz	Attending	United Kingdom
A0065	John Coxon	Attending	United Kingdom
A0066	Richard Stephenson	Attending	United Kingdom
A0067	Ian Brogan	Attending	United Kingdom
A0068	Steve Dunn (Steve)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0069	June Rosenblum	Attending	United Kingdom
A0070	Eowyn Gallifrey	Attending	United Kingdom
A0071	Betty Burney	Attending	United Kingdom
A0072	Katherine Flyte (Kat)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0073	John Campbell Rees	Attending	United Kingdom
A0074	Colin Harris	Attending	United Kingdom

ConFusion Members

as of 28 July 2020

A0075	Jo Playford	Attending	United Kingdom
A0076	Frank Chick	Attending	United Kingdom
A0077	Billy Stirling	Attending	United Kingdom
A0078	George Budge	Attending	United Kingdom
A0079	Claire	Attending	United Kingdom
A0080	Roger Robinson	Attending	United Kingdom
A0081	Paul van Oven	Attending	Netherlands
A0085	Peter Redfarn (Peter Redfarn)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0086	Heather Turnbull (The Fossil)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0087	Marcus Rowland	Attending	United Kingdom
A0088	Simon	Attending	United Kingdom
A0089	Ben Lindsay (Ben)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0090	Anna Smith Spark	Attending	United Kingdom
A0091	Crispin Black (Kris Black)	Attending	United Kingdom
A0092	Jessica Black (Jess Black)	Attending	United Kingdom

Country breakdown

United Kingdom	73
Spain	3
Sweden	2
Netherlands	2
Ireland	2
Belgium	1
Total	83